



Legislative Edition

House panel passes budget bill

By Bob Anez
Communications Director

The fate of the Corrections Department budget remained unclear after a key House committee approved a controversial bill designed to fund the agency for the next two years. Political wrangling between Republicans and Democrats over this and five other budget bills has left a cloud over the Legislature's budgeting process.

House Bill 806, one of six measures introduced by Republicans to replace the traditional single budget bill, goes to the House floor later this month for debate and a vote.

It originally represented a \$42.2 million reduction from the corrections budget proposed by Gov. Brian Schweitzer. That would leave the department with a \$58 million increase. But Director Mike Ferriter told the Appropriations Committee that amount would not be adequate to meet the needs of the department as it struggles to cope with a rising offender population.

The proposed funding level would "put public safety at risk, limit our efforts to hold offenders accountable, and hamper our efforts to rehabilitate offenders and increase recidivism," he told the committee.

"House Bill 806 simply does not adequately provide for the needs of the Department of Corrections," Ferriter testified. "The problem is that House Bill 806 is an across-the-board reduction in our present and future capacity to supervise Montana's diverse and growing offender population. 'I don't want a dollar more than we need to do our job, but I am sincere in saying I don't believe the governor's budget asks for more than is necessary,' he said.

Budget Director David Ewer said corrections is not a budget that lawmakers should gamble on cutting.

"I cannot understand why people would be proud of cutting \$40 million out of a budget for public safety," he said during a hearing on the bill. "Do you think we would ask for more money for corrections if we didn't need it?"



Corrections Director Mike Ferriter testifies before the House Appropriations Committee. (Photo by Jon Ebelt, Helena Independent Record)

"This is about public safety," Ewer said. "This is the first mission of a civilized society."

He and Ferriter urged the committee to abandon the bill and revive the governor's budget measure.

Sen. Steve Gallus, D-Butte, called the GOP budget bill "wholly inadequate" and challenged lawmakers to avoid another round of giving the department less than its needs.

Budget

FROM Page 1

“Corrections has been the bastard child of this Legislature in every session I have been here. We have never funded it adequately.”

Ferriter cited several problems with the bill.

He said it fails to provide enough funding to pay for 300 existing community corrections beds in prerelease centers, chemical-dependency treatment programs, assessment and sanction programs, and soon-to-open centers for treatment of methamphetamine addicts.

Ferriter also said the bill does not give sufficient funding for adding secure-care beds needed to accommodate expected growth in the offender population. The measure falls short of what is needed for overtime pay and inmate wages, and does not provide funding for equipment and supplies that include safety and security items for correctional officers and secure facilities.

HB806 also does not contain enough money to pay increased rates to the regional prisons as required by a 2005 law, Ferriter said.

The committee responded two days later by putting another \$12 million into the bill, a move that still left it short about \$30 million from what the governor’s budget contained.

The committee voted 10-9 to fully fund the new meth treatment centers – an 80-bed facility for males in Lewistown and a 40-bed operation for women in Boulder. The bill originally would have provided enough money for only 51 of the 120 beds.

Rep. Ray Hawk, R-Florence, proposed full funding for the centers by recalling the program was authorized by the 2005 Legislature. “It’s very important that we fund these things,” he said. If you don’t want to fund these things, then don’t pass laws requiring the agency to do it.”

Rep. Penny Morgan, R-Billings, agreed and warned other committee members that failing to fund the state’s contracts with the two centers could result in lawsuits.

“They’re up and ready to run this spring,” she said of the centers, “and now we’re not funding them. That’s wrong.”



Ewer

The committee also agreed to provide the full \$7.2 million needed to provide a 5 percent annual increase in rates paid the regional prisons in Glendive, Great Falls and Missoula, and the privately run Crossroads Correctional Center at Shelby.

A law passed by the 2005 Legislature ordered the department to develop a method to determine fair payments to the regional prisons for housing state inmates. Two counties – Missoula and Dawson – have provided information to help set those rates. Cascade County has not.

The \$7.2 million is the estimate of what the maximum cost of the increases will be when all the calculations are complete.



Hawk

The committee rejected an attempt by Hawk to provide \$15.7 million more to pay for current and new beds needed to handle a 5 percent annual growth in the offender population during the next two years. That money would finance:

- 145 existing prerelease beds
- A 200-bed sex offender treatment center
- A 150-bed addition to the work dorm at Montana State Prison

- A new 50-bed work dorm for the Montana Women’s Prison
- All 36 additional probation and parole officers requested by the department
- Placement of 50 more inmates at an expanded regional prison in Glendive
- Conversion of the Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center into a regional prison

The version of HB806 passed by the committee assumes only a 4 percent annual growth in the offender population this year and during the next two years. The department is anticipating a 7 percent increase this year and next, and an 8 percent growth in 2009.

Ferriter told the committee he hopes to be able to come to the next Legisla-

“I don’t want a dollar more than we need to do our job.”

--Mike Ferriter

ture and report a slowing in the growth of offenders as a result of increased use of alternative treatment and community corrections programs.

But, he added, “it’s too early to stick my neck out and say we don’t need the proposed beds. The numbers do not seem to go away. I wish I could say our numbers are going down.”

As for HB806, its future – and that of the five other budget bills for the rest of state government – remains uncertain. Joined by Schweitzer, House Democrats have questioned the validity of the bills. They voted against all amendments to the bills and have vowed to oppose the bills when the full House votes on them.

Democrats and the administration continue to argue that the bill containing the governor’s spending plan is the right vehicle for the state’s budget.

Makes room for 52 more state inmates

Shelby prison expands for feds

The Montana Department of Corrections, which is expecting an increase of 146 male inmates this fiscal year, found some more room for that growth with an expansion of the Crossroads Correctional Center at Shelby last month.

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) enlarged its 7½-year-old prison by 96 beds to accommodate federal inmates. Opening of the two 48-bed blocks in February resulted in moving 52 federal inmates from a dormitory-style cell block at the prison. That area became available for state inmates.

Warden Jim MacDonald said the expansion is small by correctional standards. Typically, a prison adds 500 beds at a time.

The construction project, which concluded in January, transformed the Shelby prison into a 660-bed facility. Crossroads originally was built to eventually be enlarged into a 1,536-bed prison.

MacDonald said the first seven federal inmates for the new cell block arrived Feb. 6 and the cells were expected to be two-thirds full by the middle of the month. All the federal inmates will be classified as maximum security under the federal system, which equates to "close custody" in CCA's system.



MacDonald

The state inmates to be housed in the dorm-style cell block will be minimum- to low medium-custody, MacDonald said.

Crossroads added 15 staff, including 13 correctional officers, to handle the expansion. That brought the number of employees at the prison to 180.

"Staffing has been a challenge," MacDonald said, adding that Crossroads borrowed a strategy from Montana State Prison by providing transportation to its employees who live in the Browning area, 70 miles away. The workers pay \$5 for every 140-mile roundtrip, he said.

The state prison at Deer Lodge has provided subsidized bus service for its Butte and Anaconda employees for a little over a year.

MacDonald said CCA agreed to the U.S. Marshal Service request to provide cells for federal inmates because it fits the company's long-standing contracts with the federal agency in other parts of the country. And making room for more state inmates makes sense since the prison already houses about 500 offenders for the Corrections Department, he added.

"I think it shows that we're interested in partnerships with both of our customers," he said. "It helps the Department of Corrections by providing very necessary beds. We're continuing to do what we said we would do as a partner and we're meeting the needs of our customers."

Crossroads has a \$5 million annual payroll and pays about \$463,000 a year in property taxes.

Gibson named to correctional committees

Steve Gibson, who has been administrator of the Youth Services Division in the Montana Department of Corrections for 5½ years, has been appointed to two national committees dealing with correctional issues.

At the American Correctional Association meeting in Florida during January, Gibson was named to the ACA Standards Committee, which is responsible for developing and revis-

ing standards for correctional facilities accredited by the association.

The committee continually revises the standards based on changing practices, current case law and agency experiences. Those standards approved by the committee reflect the views of correctional practitioners, architects, medical and legal experts.

The committee is comprised of 20 members – 12 appointed by the president of the association and eight by the chairperson of the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. The committee meets twice annually in conjunction with ACA's conferences to consider proposals for standards

revisions, new standards and draft manuals.

Gibson, who has worked in the corrections profession for 33 years, also is one of 15 members named to the Juvenile Standards Committee of the Prison Rape Elimination Commission.

The commission staff will draw on the expertise and advice of the committee in developing standards for the prevention and response to sexual violence in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. Gibson and other committee members will be asked to review draft standards, provide feedback and attend two full committee meetings in Washington, D.C., in June and September.

Senate confirms Ferriter, 50-0

By Bob Anez
Communications Director

The Senate unanimously confirmed Mike Ferriter as director for the Department of Corrections. The 50-0 vote came five days after the Senate State Administration Committee endorsed his appointment 11-0.

The nomination was submitted by Bruce Nelson, chief of staff for Gov. Brian Schweitzer.

In his presentation to the Senate committee, Ferriter recalled his long history of involvement with corrections in Montana. He said he first got involved with corrections while attending MSU-Billings and was an intern at a local mental health center, at mentally disabled group homes and the local juvenile probation office.

He also worked with juvenile offenders in Great Falls and then moved to Missoula where he was a juvenile parole officer and then director of the Missoula Prerelease Center. During his time in the Missoula area, Ferriter said, he learned about working with law enforcement, courts and the public, particularly employers of offenders.

At age 32, he became chief of adult probation and parole in Helena, and was introduced to the legislative process, hiring procedures, budgeting issues and the responsibility of managing large numbers of offenders and staff.

Public safety is a dominant concern as director and how well



Tropicola

the department does each day in protecting public safety is often measured by how often his cell phone rings during the night, Ferriter told the committee.

"With nearly 13,000 felony offenders and about 500 juvenile offenders under the jurisdiction of the department, I do not take a quiet cell phone for granted," he said. "I know that public safety is not only about keeping Montanans safe, it's also about keeping victims, correctional staff

and offenders safe.

"Public safety is much more than keeping felony offenders away from the public," said Ferriter, 52. "It is about keeping the public safe when offenders are living and

working side by side with the general public. It is about providing offenders the resources to stay sober, to be a parent, to control anger and to maintain a job.

"If you choose to confirm my appointment," he told the senators, "I assure that I will strive for public safety in the context I just mentioned. I will further assure you that I will respect the fiscal resources that are provided to the department. This money comes from Montana's hard-working taxpayers who want



Laslovich

themselves to be safe, offenders to be held accountable and rehabilitated, and victims to be remembered.

"I will work diligently to provide a corrections system that you and all Montanans will be proud of," Ferriter said. "I will strive for innovation within the department, positive outcomes among offenders, wise use of the public's money, lower recidivism and adequate management tools for offenders."

He drew raves from committee members.

"I'm happy to endorse Mike Ferriter for the position he has been appointed to," said Sen. Joe Tropicola, D-Great Falls. "The (Great Falls) probation officers that I knew personally really liked working with Mike. He's a good hand and I sup-

port him wholeheartedly."

Sen. Jim Shockley, R-Victor, said of Ferriter, "I've worked with him over the years and I think this is a very good choice."

Sen. Jesse Laslovich, an Anaconda Democrat and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said, "I applaud Director Ferriter for the leadership that he's provided in the Department of Corrections. It's a breath of fresh air, frankly. It's an absolute joy to work with the department in judiciary (committee) with Director Ferriter and his staff."

Sen. Larry Jent, a Bozeman Democrat and another member of the judiciary panel, praised Ferriter for his help as a subcommittee worked on sex offender legislation.

Added Democratic Sen. Carolyn Squires of Missoula, chairwoman of the administration committee: "I have nothing but good to say about him (Ferriter)."

"Public safety is much more than keeping felony offenders away from the public. It is about keeping the public safe when offenders are living and working side by side with the general public."

-- Mike Ferriter

Crossroads officer awarded ACA medal

Jason Sullivan, a correctional officer at Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby, has received the American Correctional Association's Medal of Valor for his role in controlling a disturbance at the Shelby prison more than a year ago.

Sullivan received the award at the ACA convention in Florida in January.

The award is given annually to those working in corrections who perform an act of extraordinary bravery and exceptional valor, involving imminent personal threat to their life, with knowledge of the risk, above and beyond the call of duty.

Crossroads Warden Jim MacDonald nominated Sullivan for the honor in connection with his actions during an inmate melee that occurred Jan. 7, 2006.

Sullivan, a lieutenant at the time, responded with other officers to a fight that broke out among inmates in a housing unit. He and other officers placed themselves between the attacking inmates and their victims and were able to prevent serious injury to any of the inmates.

However, Sullivan was struck multiple times by one of the inmates involved in the assault and the attack left him with a jaw broken in five places. Even with the injury, Sullivan maintained control of the situation, ordered inmates to their cells and oversaw lockdown of the unit. The incident lasted just six minutes.

Once Sullivan was assured other officers would be treated for their injuries, he turned over command and sought medical treatment for himself.

"His command presence was a major contributing factor to the quick resolution of a significant incident without the loss of life," MacDonald said in nominating Sullivan. "Having since recovered from his serious injuries, I am proud to report that Mr. Sullivan has since been promoted to captain and he now carries his own shift."

"We are proud that a prestigious organization like the American Correctional Association has chosen to honor Sullivan with such a noble award," said Rick Seiter, chief corrections officer and executive vice president of Corrections Corporation of America, owner and operator of the Shelby prison. "Captain Sullivan's actions exemplify the consummate corrections professional and embody the true meaning of what we refer to in our company as the CCA Way - a set of guiding principles that include integrity, respect, trust and loyalty."

Juvenile parole unit's accreditation renewed

By Steve Gibson
Youth Services Administrator

The American Correctional Association has re-accredited the juvenile parole unit in the Youth Services Division for the next three years.

To remain accredited, a correctional facility or organization must maintain the appropriate standards and documentation. As part of the accreditation process, auditors examined 228 standards, determined which are applicable and decided whether the unit complies with those that are. The unit must comply with 100 percent of the mandatory standards and no less than 90 percent of non-mandatory standards.

The unit is responsible for all supervision of juvenile offenders and works with those who are leaving secure facilities, as well as their families, schools, treatment providers and potential employers.

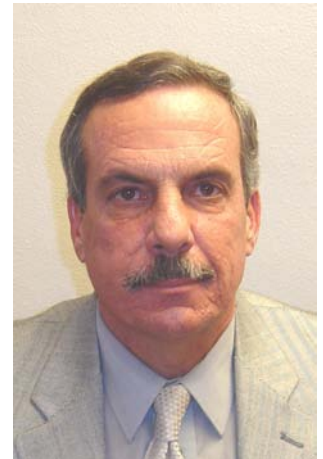
At the accreditation hearing, the unit was determined to be 98.36 percent compliant. The policy statement did not match three standards, although the practices of the unit did comply. Before the hearing was completed, the agency altered the policies to resolve that matter and establish 100 percent compliance.

The hearing panel complimented the unit's documentation and members said they were especially impressed with the parish nurse program and parole officers' involvement with schools. They also noted the support of the division's administration.

Accreditation serves several purposes. It recognizes the achievement of a program or facility's staff and indicates correctional programs follow best national practices. The auditors are correctional experts from outside Montana.

Karen Duncan, Youth Community Corrections Bureau chief; Marwan Saba, detention licensing and quality assurance specialist; Cheri Bragg, administrative support staffer and parole officers were involved in obtaining reaccreditation.

Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility and the Board of Pardons and Parole are the only other state corrections-related programs to achieve ACA accreditation.



Gibson

Youth Services Division

Spotlight on Indian culture

By Steve Gibson
Youth Services Administrator

The Youth Services Division in the Montana Department of Corrections continues to enhance programs and increase activities specific to the American Indian culture. These efforts are crucial in a youth system where 18 percent to 25 percent of incarcerated boys and 40 percent to 80 percent of incarcerated girls are Indian.

In addition, the Schweitzer administration has established a government-wide commitment to working with Montana tribes and the state's Indian population as a whole. These efforts in youth corrections are part of the goal.

Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility at Miles City has had a sweat lodge since 1992 and Riverside Youth Correctional Facility in Boulder has had one since 2001. In May 2005, Pine Hills opened its Center for Spirituality and moved its sweat lodge area closer to the center. The sweat lodge was rebuilt, blessed and dedicated in September 2005 by Charles Little Old Man, spiritual leader for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and his assistant Marceline Shoulderblade. The sweat lodge at Riverside also will be rebuilt in the spring of 2007, then blessed and dedicated by Little Old Man and Shoulderblade.

In January and February 2007, the division used federal grant funding to train licensed addiction counselors in offering the White Bison Medicine Wheel Treatment Program to youth at both correctional facilities. Select parole officers observed the first training and will later be trained

as group facilitators to conduct the chemical-dependency treatment program. White Bison includes sobriety sweats for youth, talking circles and continued programming for youth returning to communities throughout the state.

Our mentoring program was instrumental in providing wellness programs in October 2006 at both correctional facilities that incorporate Indian cultural components. Wellness days are already scheduled for Riverside and the Great Falls Youth Transition Center in March 2007, and Pine Hills in April 2007.

The Pine Hills and Riverside schools have implemented "Indian Education for All" programs. This curriculum, first funded by the 2005 Legislature, is designed to improve schools' ability to accurately teach Indian culture and history. The schools have utilized their general funds to

purchase resources that are being recommended by OPI for staff and students. The social studies classes are integrating

instruction has several experts available to support teachers in their endeavor to infuse the developed curriculum into their regular curricula.

Staff members at both schools are being trained at Miles Community College and in Billings on how to integrate Indian studies into the curricula. Pine Hills also sent staff to additional training on how to reach Indian students. The Pine Hills library increased resources and literature about plains Indian tribes.

The Office of Public Instruction awarded a \$29,460 "Indian Education for All" grant to the schools at both correctional facilities. This allows the schools to have guest speakers from each of the tribes to present in the schools their tribe's perspective on history, traditions, cultural practices and the current issues they face. The grant also will provide for two garden projects, a native plants garden and a medicine wheel flower garden. The goal is to foster interest in and develop respect for mother Earth that Indians demonstrate.

Riverside has modified social studies and history courses dealing with plains Indian history and contemporary issues facing Montana tribes. The facility also has developed, in conjunction with Helena High School teacher Joe Anderson, an Indian literature course.

The division continues to offer cultural diversity training to staff. This training provides information about Montana tribes, and the courses are required as part of basic new employee orientation.



the model curriculum, which is supported by research and accurately depicts areas the tribal leaders of Montana have identified as important for all students to study. The curriculum is designed to be included in other course work. The Office of Public In-

Senate passes sex offender bill

The Montana Senate approved a bill that would toughen punishment for predatory sex offenders who target children, but also would offer the opportunity for other sex offenders to shorten their sentences by successfully completing a treatment program.

The departments of Justice and Corrections supported the measure that was crafted by the Senate Judiciary Committee from three bills introduced by two Republicans and a Democrat.

The bill, passed 49-1, is designed to be Montana's answer to the national effort by states to enact their own versions of "Jessica's Law." That term refers to a statute in Florida that was enacted in May 2005, just a couple of months after the death of 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford was discovered. The child had been killed by a registered sex offender.

Senate Bill 547 would impose a mandatory prison term of at least 25 years on a person convicted of sexual abuse of children or sexual intercourse without consent, where the victim is 12 years old or younger and the offender is 18 years or older. The prison term could not be deferred or suspended and the offender would not be eligible for parole until 25 years was served.

The bill also mandates lifetime supervision for these sexual predators upon their release, including participation in satellite-based continuous monitoring. Sexual predators of children also must complete sex offender treatment programs in prison before they can be eligible for parole.

A key provision of the legislation allows the Department of Corrections to place non-predatory sex offenders in a residential treatment program, and successful completion of such a program would allow offenders to finish their sentences on probation.

Sen. Gary Perry, a Manhattan Republican and sponsor of the measure, called it "an extremely powerful bill" that puts Montana at the forefront of efforts to crack down on sex offenders who prey upon children.

"We are moving forward in our commitment to protecting the citizens of our state," he told fellow senators during debate on the bill.

SENATE, Page 9



Message From the Director

Mike Ferriter

The Montana Department of Corrections has some 1,200 employees. Most of them have daily contact with dozens or even hundreds of offenders. Many will never work directly with offenders.

Some of our employees have made a lifelong career of corrections, others have dedicated years to this profession, some are just passing through the corrections field in search of a longtime career and others are new to the agency.

Whatever the situation, each of our employees has the ability to make a difference. And the difference they make is in other people's lives.

At a recent meeting of the department's management team, I told the administrators, "It is our time to make our mark on this agency. Let's take advantage of our time. Let's not look back and say, 'I should have done this or I could have done that.'"

I believe this is a valuable philosophy to follow in this business of corrections, regardless of whether an employee is here for a year or a career. These times are special.

We happen to be working in this profession at a time that offers us a true opportunity to make a difference, to change the way things have been done for a long time and to set Montana on a revolutionary corrections path that other states will follow.

We have a governor determined to forever alter the face of corrections – to shift its focus from imprisonment to improvement of offenders. We are headed in an exciting direction where the emphasis on helping offenders is as important as holding them accountable and where treatment goes hand in hand with punishment. We believe that, with the right programs and services, we can slow growth in the population of offenders by giving them the help they need to rebuild their lives and avoid committing new crimes.

But, for these changes to occur, we need the understanding and support of Montana's Legislature. We're working hard this session to explain our long-term goals for corrections and why we must have the funding to reach those goals.

We're not interested in spending one more dollar of tax-

COLUMN, Page 16

Dan Burden retiring

By Karen Vaughn
TSCTC Administrative Assistant

Dan Burden knows exactly what he will do when he retires later this month as superintendent of Treasure State Correctional Training Center.

He plans to build a barn.

But that's not all on his retirement agenda. His wife, Sheri, said he has plenty of other interests to keep him busy.

"I think a lot of people might be surprised about Dan's kayaking, backpacking and wilderness experiences," she said. "Especially people who have only seen him in a shirt and tie. Or his talents in carpentry, construction, working with copper, creating art out of burls.

"It's funny," Mrs. Burden added. "The people he kayaks with, or friends and neighbors in the Swan (Valley) can't imagine him in a tie as they see the fun or creative side of him. One friend mentioned once that she thought he was the funniest person she knows. But I doubt that

comes out while at work, as he is feeling he must be more professional there."

Burden, 52, said his goal had long been to retire at 50, if it was financially possible. Finally last year, Sheri Burden told him their finances would allow it.

Corrections Director Mike Ferriter praised Burden for his dedication to corrections.

"I wish Dan Burden the very best in his retirement," he said. "Dan truly exemplifies a person who is fully committed to his position of superintendent. He has always been devoted to the mission of TSCTC as well as the department's mission.

"I can think of few people who serve as a better role model for staff and offenders than Dan Burden," Ferriter added. "I thank Dan for his dedication to victims' issues and for teaching many of us the true meaning of the word integrity."

Burden, who has worked in adult and juvenile corrections for 25 years, said his decision to retire after

4½ years as superintendent of the boot camp, was not an easy one. Corrections has been in his blood for much of his life.

"I recognized early in life, when I left corrections temporarily to go into construction, that there was no such sense of fulfillment in any other field," he said. "I will miss having an impact on and changing people's lives when I do retire.

"I will also miss the far-reaching effect on taxpayers and communities that would otherwise be victimized and are not," Burden said. "I can't imagine that I will ever have another position that is so satisfying. That is tough to walk away from."

He said it was the ability to make a difference that made the superintendent's job so rewarding and inspiring.

"It is easy to get into a rut and lose sight of the impact you can have," he explained. "You can't be a

BURDEN, Page 9



"I will miss having an impact on and changing people's lives when I do retire."



"We are seen as a last stop before prison. We are now taking a much more difficult offender than in the past."



"I can't imagine that I will ever have another position so satisfying."

Burden

FROM Page 8

slug in a herd of antelopes. The staff is such a motivated group that you can't help but get into the spirit of it."

A native of Ohio, Burden holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Ohio State University and worked in the Ohio juvenile corrections system as a counselor and employment specialist before coming to Montana in 1979.

He was a counselor and program manager at the Swan River Forest Camp, predecessor to Treasure State. When the program moved to the Deer Lodge Valley in 1997 and got a new name, he became corrections manager. He took over the superintendent's job in November 2002.

Burden believes the boot camp has evolved as the Department of Corrections has changed.

"There are many, many more options now for offenders," he said.

"With the expansion of DOC and prerelease centers, where offenders can work and stay in their community, more offenders choose to go there," Burden said. "We get a much different offender, taking more of those that fail other programs. We are seen as a last stop before prison. We are now taking a much more difficult offender than in the past."

Treasure State will continue to provide that service in the future, Burden predicts. "We will get offenders who are too defiant, too lazy or have more severe crimes to fit into other programs. That will be a tough, but good role for the boot camp."

Jim Cameron, a drill instructor at the boot camp, said Burden has stood out in his position as superintendent. He is the only supervisor Cameron has seen who is willing to participate in the physical training portion of the camp regiment.

"Even in the military, the upper echelons would not run with the platoon," he said. "I have seen him running in sleet and rain, and with frost on his beard. It's just one example of the teamwork he instills at TSCTC."

Sam Lemaich, regional administrator for probation and parole in Missoula, said Burden's dogged determination has impressed him. He

recalled one instance when Burden asked him to join in a climb of Trapper Peak. Little did he know the kind of climb Burden had in mind.

"I thought that was not a bad idea, until he said he wanted to do it in the winter with snowshoes," Lemaich remembers. "Trapper Peak is almost 10,000 feet and the highest in the Bitterroots. I may have been able to do it, but it would have taken me a week. Dan wanted to do it in a day!"

The Burdens will return to their first Montana home in the Swan Valley, and the new barn will include a woodshop for him and a stained-glass workshop for her.

A retirement party for Burden is planned for the afternoon of March 28, the day before his final shift at the boot camp.



Dan Burden maneuvers his kayak through whitewater.

Senate

FROM Page 7

Sen. Lynda Moss, a Billings Democrat who chaired the subcommittee that developed the bill, said the members "went through a very thoughtful and deliberative process" in doing its work.

Sen. Kim Gillan, another Billings Democrat, emphasized the treatment provisions in the bill. She said evidence indi-

cates sexual predators who undergo treatment are less likely to commit another sexual crime than those who do not.

"Treatment is a bit of an insurance policy for the public," she said. "It's another measure of public accountability. Eventually they (sexual offenders) will get out and it would be a disservice to the public if we do not provide them some sort of treatment."

The department's budget proposal includes a request for \$9.1 million to contract with a private, nonprofit corporation for providing a community-based sex offender treatment center.



LEFT: Director Mike Ferriter discusses with members of the MSP Communications Committee the importance of their work.

BELOW LEFT: Winnie Ore, chief of the Staff Development and Training Bureau, talks to the committee about the complexity of communications and its role in understanding one another.



MSP group promotes better communications

The Communications Committee at Montana State Prison marked its fourth year recently with a breakfast that featured a screening of two media productions and a visit by Director Mike Ferriter.

Ferriter talked to some three dozen prison staff about the importance of communication and urged them, "Don't take this sort of effort for granted."

The meeting at a Deer Lodge church was highlighted by an airing of a 10-minute video describing operations of the prison, including housing units, food factory, dairy, ranch and industries complex. A slide show focused on employees working in all facets of the prison operations and stressed such themes as respect and professional development.

Anita Lerner, a paralegal at the prison and committee member, recalled

the beginnings of the committee four years ago when Warden Mike Mahoney created a task force to study frequent complaints about the lack of communication at the prison. The task force identified the problems and evolved into the committee, which was charged with improving communications among staff.

Lerner said Winston Churchill once defined communication as the courage to stand up and speak and the courage to sit down and listen.

She said the committee has posted motivational signs around the prison, emphasizing that everybody is important in the operation and reminding all employees they are "here for a good cause."

The annual communications fair at the prison is scheduled for May 15.



Anita Lerner talks to members of the MSP Communications Committee.

Re-entry: Continuity for juveniles

By Karen Duncan
Youth Community Corrections

Re-entry is a popular term that covers a multitude of approaches to aid offenders as they return to the community from secure correctional facilities across the country.

Since 2003, the Youth Services Division, under the direction of Administrator Steve Gibson, has provided re-entry services to 415 juveniles.

The process of re-entry for youth in Montana begins with the youth's entry in a correctional facility. It improves continuity of services by enhancing communication among service providers within the youth correctional facilities, aftercare coordinators, juvenile parole, and various contracted and volunteer agencies and individuals.



Duncan

Before the focus on re-entry, parole officers sometimes had contact with youth during the court process committing youth to correctional facilities, and officers received periodic reports at 30 days and at three-month intervals until about a month before a youth's release. At that point, a more concerted effort would occur to set up resources for the youth in the community.

The re-entry effort requires parole officers' on-going participation in the case by contacting a youth within 10 days of arrival at the facility, and working with staff at the institution and the aftercare coordinators during a youth's stay. The officers also develop a thorough knowledge of the treatment plan so that it can continue in a relatively seamless fashion from facility to community.

Aftercare coordinators and parole officers work with several contracted organizations (Youth Homes Inc., Mountain Peaks Inc. and a parish nurse program) and community support teams to provide ongoing assistance for youth in communities. Information about parish nurses and mentoring is available at:

<http://www.mountainpeaksinc.com/com.phtml?p=mentoring>.

Parole officers are a vital part of the re-entry support team. Team members take on various responsibilities, and parole officers – while the ultimate decision-makers – also must constantly communicate with the other team members so that everyone is working toward the same objective with a youth.

The department has enhanced training for employees and has made the same training available to contracted providers and volunteers.

One course – “Effective Communication; Motivating Offenders to Change” – focuses on providing practitioners with specific knowledge, skills and techniques for youth to gain internal motivation for change.

The “Medicine Wheel 12 Step Program” addresses treatment, healing and recovery issues for youth with chemical use, abuse and dependency issues in a way that is culturally appropriate for American Indians. “Girls’ Circle Facilitator Training” teaches skills to lead support groups for girls.

In addition to being liaisons between correctional facilities and parole officers, aftercare coordinators invite parents to facilities for family commitment and integration meetings. They have been integral to implementing the use of VisionNet, a statewide teleconferencing system, for linking providers with youth and for family visits with youth.

At the family commitment and integration meetings, family members meet facility staff and become familiar with the treatment program in which a youth is involved. VisionNet provides a way for families to see youth during a conversation and not just hear a voice over a phone. It also provides an opportunity for youth to see and talk with potential placement representatives.

The re-entry program was a major change for institutional social workers and juvenile parole officers. Parole officers begin working with institution staff immediately upon a youth's commitment, are informed about the assessment and treatment plans, and work with institution staff and aftercare coordinators on transition planning.

The continuity of services for youth is enhanced by large teams of individuals in the community. These teams are assembled by the aftercare coordinators. Members must include juvenile parole officers, law enforcement personnel, a therapist (if specified), and a family member or other placement representatives. The other placement representatives may be with a foster home or group home.

As appropriate, members also may include education staff, religious community representatives, youth organization representatives, mentors, victim advocates or representatives, and employment specialists. If an assessment identifies a need beyond those, an agency or individual able to meet the need will be added to the team. A team's function is to support youth success.

Over the past four years, the re-entry program has changed to improve services. The mentoring program has expanded to offer the service to youth while they are in

Senate rejects regional prison measure

Senators rejected a bill that would have allowed a nearly completed facility at Hardin to be legally recognized as a regional detention center.

Being built by the city of Hardin, the building will have about 400 beds and was touted by area officials as an economic development project that would provide badly needed cells for federal, state and local governments.

After approving the measure on a preliminary vote, the Senate killed the bill, 31-19.

Critics said it was wrong for the developers to have gone forward with the project without first getting the necessary approval from the state. They said it would be a bad precedent to declare the facility a regional detention center after the fact.



Gallus

"Here we have a facility that was constructed without going through the proper channels," said Sen. Jesse Laslovich, D-Anaconda, in arguing against Senate Bill 545. "They build it and come to the Legislature and say, 'We have spent \$20 million to do this, now you people decide.'"

Sen. Steve Gallus, D-Butte, also opposed the bill and said he objects to building prisons as a tool for economic development.

Sen. Frank Smith, D-Poplar, said his proposal should pass because the facility is needed to house offenders from

that region of southeastern Montana. He said Bureau of Indian Affairs, tribal governments and area counties could use the center.

Sen. Dan McGee, R-Laurel, supported the bill based on Corrections Director Mike Ferriter urging lawmakers to keep the measure alive for the time being. Although the Corrections Department never indicated it would use the facility for state inmates, he said, the bill at least should be sent to the House for further consideration.

He and Smith had support from Sen. Joe Balyeat, R-Bozeman. He disputed the argument that a precedent would be set for others to build first and ask questions later.



Balyeat

"I cannot imagine any future business enterprise going out there and making a \$20 million wager on the speculative premise that they will get state approval after the fact," he said.

But Sen. Trudi Schmidt, D-Great Falls, said lawmakers should not create an exception in the law for developers who proceeded with an ill-advised and unapproved project.

"Everyone was shocked to learn of this," she said. "No one knew how this happened, including the Department of Corrections. No process was followed. That bothers me. I don't like that kind of precedent being set."

Re-entry

FROM Page 11

correctional facilities. It also has incorporated an Indian cultural focus by providing "wellness days" at correctional facilities led by Indian mentors and tribal elders.

The parish nurse component recently began making initial contacts with youth in the respective correctional facilities in order to help smooth transition and clarify all the opportunities available through the program. Parish nurses are licensed professionals who have received additional training to be able to serve in this role. Within the youth re-entry effort in Montana, these nurses provide health expertise to community teams and a connection to a faith community if a youth expresses such a desire.

The guide home program continues to be a staple of the re-entry effort. It provides homes and guidance for the most difficult-to-place youth. The state has more than 30 guide homes located in Billings, Boulder, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell and Missoula. Guide homes are family residences licensed as foster homes in which parents

have additional training to provide care for youth being released from correctional facilities.

Guide home parents assist youth while they are under the department's supervision and, on occasion, have continued to support youth personally as well as financially through high school graduation.

Other states have sought to duplicate some elements of Montana's youth re-entry program. Alaska and South Dakota, among others, have asked for copies of the requests for proposals issued for the guide home and mentoring programs.

A quick look at parole officers' monthly reports indicates that felony recidivism for the re-entry target population has been 5.8 percent, compared with the overall average felony recidivism rate of 6.6 percent.

With federal funding for youth re-entry programs expected to end, the department has asked the 2007 Legislature to provide state funding instead. Without state funding, continuity of services will suffer and guide homes, parish nurses and mentors will be lost. The department, in asking the Legislature for \$1.75 million to maintain the program, has expressed confidence that the services benefit young offenders in ways that society cannot afford to lose.

Sgt. Wayne Cameron

Boot camp ambasssador

By Karen Vaughn
TSCTC Administrative Assistant

Sgt. Wayne Cameron gets around. A drill sergeant at Treasure State Correctional Training Center for the past decade, Cameron has a passion for opening the eyes of youth to the boot camp program in hopes that it makes a difference.

The 20-year veteran of the corrections profession makes presentations about the boot camp at high schools around western Montana, gives wayward youths a first-hand look at the program, and offers a glimpse of the training regimen of the program.

Thanks to Cameron, scores of Montana students have had a taste of the Department of Corrections boot camp, without ever committing a crime or visiting the facility. Cameron makes that happen when he takes the boot camp experience on the road to Montana high schools four times a year.

He uses these presentations to talk to students about the consequences of criminal behaviors and how the boot camp program operates. These presentations have become a regular part of high school programs at Missoula Hellgate and Missoula Sentinel.

Cameron also has made appearances at schools in Seeley Lake, Butte, Lima, Deer Lodge, Anaconda and Montana City.

In mid-January, 46 Sentinel High School students had their first exposure to Cameron.

The presentation started with the students slowly filtering into their seats. Cameron's booming voice caught them off-guard with instructions.

"Stand up!"

"Sit down!"

"Sit up straight!"



Sgt. Wayne Cameron puts Missoula Sentinel High School students through their paces.

To each command, he demanded the students respond with an enthusiastic, "Yes sir!"

They suddenly became animated and attentive.

Cameron talked about the loss of freedom that comes with being incarcerated. He tried to make the students realize that the choices they make have consequences. He described the boot camp program in a way that grabbed the students' attention.

On some of his visits, Cameron brings along a trainee from the boot camp. He allows the trainee to talk to the students about his criminal past and tell them what the boot camp is like.

Cameron believes teens will listen to their peers and encourages them to talk to their friends who are headed in the wrong direction. That advice offers participating students an opportunity to do something meaningful beyond attend his presentation.

The 90-minute program seemed to hit the mark with students. Even after a half-hour question-and-answer period, students still had hands in the air with additional questions.

The Sentinel presentation was the 25th time teacher Joe Fisher has attended a Cameron show. He said he ever misses an appearance and that he's impressed with the rapport and interaction Cameron establishes with the students. He also

praised such "active" corrections programs as the boot camp.

The presentations are popular with students. One year, a Cameron visit occurred on Missoula Hellgate's senior "skip day," a tradition where soon-to-graduate students get a day off from school in the spring. Thirteen students used part of their day off to attend the presentation.

Cameron also directs a delinquency prevention program. In this partnership between Juvenile Probation Officer Steve Snell, at-risk youth get a glimpse of where their poor choices might lead them. To set the tone for the day, Cameron sternly greets each youngster as he or she arrives at the boot camp.

Later, a group of trainees confront the teenagers about their criminal activities. The day ends with observation of the intake process that marks the arrival of a new squad of trainees.

CAMERON, Page 14

Prison officers honored for giving roadside aid

Twenty Montana State Prison correctional officers and one former officer have received the Western Correctional Association Medal of Valor for their efforts last year to help a family of 10 when their van crashed on icy Interstate 90 one wintery morning.

The officers were riding a bus to work when the driver encountered the van smashed against a concrete pillar of the Ramsay overpass east of Deer Lodge. The driver of the van had been blinded by snow kicked up from a passing truck and the vehicle went out of control on the slick road.

Karst Stage bus driver Tom Lemm, a former correctional officer, stopped and the passengers came to the aid of the Minnesota family.

The father was calling for help on a cell phone. His 20-year-old son, who had been driving the van, was trapped in the vehicle and the other children were scared and in shock.

Some officers helped the wife and son, and others assisted the younger children by helping them get out of the crushed van and into the warm bus. One officer pried open a door of the van so the driver could get medical aid.

Lisa Hunter, secretary of the Montana Correctional Association, and Rae Forseth, Montana Department of Corrections recruiter and first vice president of the Western Correctional Association, presented the medals during a staff meeting at the prison.

Those honored were Barney Hedges, Tim Mazzone, Marvin Latray, Eric Miller, Bob Shaw, Karen Peterson, Gary Tolan, Julie Miller, Cliff Curnow, Steve and Kim Hatcher, Steve Kramer, Tom Bolton, William Blood Good, Nick Carter, Lynn Foster, Adrian Guidoni, Garland Hall, Jack O'Neil, Bruno Kraus and Lemm.



Sgt. Wayne Cameron, with the help of a trainee, explains the boot camp program to students at Missoula Sentinel High School.

DOC employees take icy plunge for charity

A few Department of Corrections employees recently were freezin' for a reason.

Employees who are members of the Montana Correctional Association took the challenge of raising funds for the Montana Special Olympics by taking an ice-cold dip in Helena's Spring Meadow Lake.

With the temperature barely in the 20s on a sunny Saturday, Wayne Ternes, Ted Ward, Lisa Hunter, Rae Forseth and Mackie Glosser took part in the "Sweet Heart Passion Plunge." They jumped into a frozen lake Feb. 10 to help raise funds for the Montana Special Olympics and collected nearly \$1,500 for their brave swim.

With almost 100 participants, the full-day event brought out everyone wearing snow boots, winter coats with hats and gloves. Everyone, that is, except the plungers. Organizers awarded prizes for the best costumes and Lisa Hunter won the passion plunger award for collecting \$631 by herself.

All money raised will help local Special Olympic athletics attend the state, national and international competitions. Pictures of the event are available on the Montana Correctional Association Web site at www.mca-us.com.

Cameron

FROM Page 13

Each year since 2000, Cameron and other officers from the boot camp participate in the Montana Law Enforcement Academy's Junior Police Leadership Academy. This one-week training program is a basic introduction to the criminal justice profession, with individuals from various government agencies presenting information about their field.

The boot camp officers have become the highlight of the training. According to Rae Ann Forseth, department recruiter, e-mails and final exit evaluations from the students describe the course as informative, helpful and an eye-opening experience.

Cameron donates his time, gives a brief overview of the boot camp program and then takes the students for a "walk and a talk." They learn basic drill movements and about teamwork, dress and alignment.

They have a few minutes to talk about decisions they may have to make, how to deal with pressure, how to carry themselves to project a positive image, and the affect their decisions can have on others and their future.

Security planned for central office

Access to the Department of Corrections central office building and annex will be more restricted beginning March 14, as the first steps to improve security of the agency's administrative offices.

All visitors and department employees who do not work in the buildings will no longer be able to enter the buildings at will. Those coming to the central office building at 1539 11th Ave. can only enter through the south door and take the elevator to the second floor reception desk. There, they must sign in and receive a visitor's pass before proceeding. The visitor's pass must be returned as visitors check out at the reception desk.

All doors to the annex will be locked and access available only by use of department-issued door-entry cards. Visitors and department employees who do not work in the central office or annex can get access only by being met at a door by an employee in the annex.

The elevator in the central office building will no longer provide access to all floors. It will stop only on the second floor, unless an employee has a code for the elevator keypad that will allow the elevator to reach another floor. Employees are urged to not provide keypad codes to others.

Only certain employees will have around-the-clock access to one or both buildings.

Bill Fleiner, chief of the Investigations and Compliance Monitoring Bureau, said the changes are necessary measures to provide safety and security for department staff working in the two buildings.

"Given the population we serve, this just makes sense," he said. "We have had offenders who have stalked employees and been found lurking in the building. We have had unescorted offenders walking through the building and we have had to report thefts from offices."

"The central office and the annex are probably the least-secure facilities in the Capitol complex," Fleiner said. "We manage a population most likely to impact our safety and security, and we have had enough situations to give us pause and reason to take action."

Fleiner said some the problem is a result of the central office building's history. It once housed the local proba-

tion and parole office where offenders became accustomed to meeting with their probation and parole officers. Also, he said, some offenders come to the building thinking it was the office for business transactions such as making restitution payments.

"Even if these incidents had not occurred, it is time to do something about improving our security and to be more conscientious about controlling who is able to be in the central office building and annex," Fleiner said.

The changes, which take effect at 8 a.m. next Wednesday, are among suggestions from the Central Office and Annex Safety Committee.

The new restrictions for visitors apply to department employees from other offices in Helena or elsewhere in the state, employee family members, vendors without existing access for deliveries and the general public.

Fleiner said the check-in and check-out process is a crucial tool in determining who is in the central office building at any time, in the event of fire or other emergency.

Some construction is planned at the second-floor reception area in connection with the new security measures, and the east and west doors of the central office building will be renovated to allow air flow during warm weather.



Fleiner

Inmates help get firewood to poor

Montana State Prison inmates who are members of the ranch and fire crews recently helped warm some Montana homes.

As part of Gov. Brian Schweitzer's Warm Homes Warm Hearts program, the inmates gathered, cut up and

loaded 44 cords of wood for delivery to households on the Northern Cheyenne, Rocky Boy's, Blackfeet and Fort Peck Indian reservations, and homes in Butte, Kalispell and Lewistown.

The wood was downfall on land surrounding the prison and needed to be removed before it posed a fire hazard.

The wood was delivered to low-income families by trucks from the Food Commodity Program in the Depart-

ment of Public Health and Human Services. Personnel from tribal and local government agencies also participated.

"As we looked at the downfall problem, we saw an opportunity," said Corrections Director Mike Ferriter. "The governor has been encouraging state agencies to do all they can to make sure that Montanans stay warm during the winter, and we saw a chance to do our part."

New Employees

EDITOR'S NOTE: This list includes new hires from Jan. 5 2007 through Feb. 16, 2007, based on personnel records in the central office. If you notice any errors or omissions, please call the *Signpost* editor at (406) 444-0409, or e-mail him at banez@mt.gov.

Central Office

Jordan Carroll-Larson
Deeann Glowacki

Montana State Prison

Thomas Brown
Sharlie Corcoran
Zane Harmon
Ty Hultman
John Lindal
Nikki Lorello
Benjamin McKinley
David Nixon
Robert Peltier
Lennie Rainville
Frederick Richards

Patrick Savage
Clay Shoemaker
Elaina Sholey
Kathleen Walker

Montana Women's Prison

Melissa Carroll
Jose Garcia
Jeff Jensen

Probation and Parole

Ray Childress, Bozeman
Arturo Gonzalez, Bozeman
Melissa Lesmeister, Helena
Sharon Parks-Banda, Hamilton
Eric Tadlock, Great Falls
Tammy Tranquillo, Hamilton

Riverside

Kristi Peyer

Youth Transition Center

Chareman Marney



Montana Department of Corrections Mission

The Montana Department of Corrections enhances public safety, promotes positive change in offender behavior, reintegrates offenders into the community and supports victims of crime.

STEP bill advances to House

A proposal by two departments to create a new treatment program for mentally ill offenders cleared the Senate last month, but still has an uphill battle.

The Secure Treatment and Examination Program (STEP) is a product of the departments of Corrections and Public Health and Human Services. The Senate passed the bill authorizing the program, 40-10,.

But funding for the project remains uncertain. The \$3.8 million to finance STEP operations for the next two years was not included in a new Republican measure containing the budget for the health and human services agency.

Another \$5.2 million is contained in a long-range planning bill. It would pay for adapting a building on the Warm Springs campus for use by STEP and to renovate another nearby building to house a DUI treatment program that must be moved from STEP's new home.

STEP would house 60 offenders currently in the Montana State Hospital and 60 of the most severely mentally ill inmates from Montana State Prison and Montana Women's Prison. The goal is to provide intense, specialized treatment for these groups of offenders so they will have a better chance of succeeding when eventually released into communities.

what taxpayers will have to spend on corrections in the future.

As it is for us in corrections, so it is for legislators. It is their time to make a difference. It's their opportunity to avoid looking back someday and saying, "We should have done that."

Column

FROM Page 7

payer money than necessary. But some investment is needed if we are to make a difference and minimize

Signpost Deadlines

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Edition</u>
March 31.....	Spring
June 30.....	Summer
Sept. 30.....	Fall
Dec. 15.....	Winter

The Correctional Signpost is published by the Montana Department of Corrections at the central office, 1539 11th Ave., P.O. Box 201301, Helena, MT 59620-1301.

The *Signpost* can be found online at www.cor.mt.gov

DOC Director: Mike Ferriter
Signpost Editor: Bob Anez, (406) 444-0409, banez@mt.gov